

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Andreas NORDBRYHN,  
Tom STEIDEL,  
and Lennart FLEM

Serial No. : Group Art Unit:

Filing Date : Examiner:

Title : **METHOD AND RETURN VENDING  
MACHINE DEVICE FOR HANDLING  
EMPTY BEVERAGE CONTAINERS**

Priority Date : July 12, 1996  
Claimed

Entity Status : Large Entity

Our Docket : RR-391 CIP#1


---

**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL Customer Receipt No. EV334433114US in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 25, 2004

  
Attorney For Applicant

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
UNDER MPEP 506 TO REDUCE FILING FEES**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments before calculating the  
  
filing fee for this application: